

APPLICANTS: ILAN, Gabriel et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/674,710
FILED: January 29, 2000
Pag 5

New claims 25 and 33 recite the combination of "a voice recognition unit" and "a handwriting recognition unit" together with a "control unit able to receive said at least one first command and at least one second command".

Claim Rejections (35 USC § 102)

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 20 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Blackburn et al. (US 6,157,327A).

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 20 have been canceled thus the rejection of these claims is now moot.

Claim Rejections (35 USC § 103)

Claims 2, 4, 7 - 9, 11 - 17, 19, and 21 - 24 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackburn et al. in view of Sawada (US 5,754,430A).

Claims 2, 4, and 7 have been canceled thus the rejection of these claims is now moot.

Claims 8, 9, 11 - 17, 19, and 21 - 24 have been amended to depend from new independent claim 25. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these dependent claims and maintain that the Examiner has not met the burden of producing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. However, in order to move prosecution forward, the claim rejections will be discussed in light of the new independent claims.

Blackburn et al. teach (column 2, lines 64 - 66) "Control of all of the several controllable devices 12 is accomplished via manually touching by a vehicle occupant (not shown) on a tactile operator 44 of the apparatus 10". Blackburn et al. do not teach nor show any other type of recognition, specifically they do not teach "a voice recognition unit" (new claim 25, line 2). Furthermore, there is no motivation shown for any other type of recognition unit in the disclosure of Blackburn et al. All commands are adequately handled by the tactile operator of their invention.

Sawada teaches two distinct embodiments for name input. The first uses voice recognition and keys (column 7, lines 55 - 59) "The destination setting means 4 and the

APPLICANTS: ILAN, Gabriel et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/674,710
FILED: January 29, 2000
Page 6

place-name input means 5 are designed so that the input operation can be performed by using the various keys 51 - 55 of the operation unit 50 and by jointly using the operation of the keys 51 - 55 and the voice."

The second, embodiment of Sawada uses an input tablet with a stylus and touch panel. "The destination setting means 4 and the place-name input means 5 shown in Fig. 4 are designed so that the destination and the place names serving as targets for the route judgment can be input with a pen using a hand-write character recognition device 56." (column 8, lines 35 - 49) An operation input unit 58 comprising a transparent touch panel switch or the like is provided on the display screen of the operation unit display 57c..." (column 8, line 64 - column 9, line 2)

Sawada provides the two embodiments as alternatives. "FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing another embodiment of the destination setting means and the place-name input means." (column 8, line 31 - 34) This statement teaches away from their combination.

Thus, there is no motivation to combine Blackburn et al. with Sawada.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to dependent claims 8, 9, 11 - 17, 19, and 21 - 24.

Claims 10 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackburn et al. in view of Opel (US 5,555,502).

Claims 10 and 18 have been amended to depend from new independent claim 25. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these dependent claims and maintain that the Examiner has not met the burden of producing a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Blackburn et al. has been discussed above, that discussion is applicable here.

Opel does not cure the deficiencies of Blackburn et al. Neither Blackburn et al. nor Opel teach "a voice recognition unit". Thus, neither Blackburn et al. nor Opel alone or in combination meet the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to dependent claims 10 and 18.

APPLICANTS: ILAN, Gabriel et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/674,710
FILED: January 29, 2000
Page 7

Conclusion

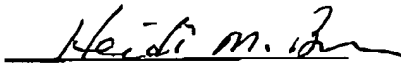
The present amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance and that all rejections have been overcome. Prompt notice of allowance of claims 8 - 19 and 21 - 33 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content, or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made"**.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPLICANTS: ILAN, Gabriel et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/674,710
FILED: January 29, 2000
Page 8

"Version with markings to show changes made"

In the claims:

8. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one command data set includes alphanumeric characters.
9. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one command data set includes symbolic characters.
10. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one appliance is a cellular telephone and said at least one command data set includes cellular telephone commands and alphanumeric characters.
11. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one appliance is a personal computer and said at least one command data set includes computer instructions and alphanumeric characters.
12. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one command data set is associated with a predetermined set of voice signals.
13. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one command data set is associated with a predetermined set of handwritten signals.
14. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one command data set is associated with a predetermined set of handwritten and voice signals.
15. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one command data set is associated by a user with at least one voice signal.
16. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one command data set is associated by a user with at least one hand signal.

APPLICANTS: ILAN, Gabriel et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/674,710
FILED: January 29, 2000
Page 9

17. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one command data set is associated with handwritten and voice signals modifiable by said user.

18. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one appliance is a car alarm.

19. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said [device] apparatus connects to [a plurality of] said at least one appliance [appliances and said main module and appliance] by an interface [cooperatively distribute said command signals to] appropriate to said [appliances] at least one appliance.

21. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one appliance is a cellular telephone and said at least one command data set includes short text messages.

22. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one appliance is a personal computer and said at least one command data set includes short text messages.

23. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one appliance is a radio.

24. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim [7] 25 wherein said at least one appliance is a navigation system and said at least one command data set includes locations.

25. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a voice recognition unit able to output at least one first command from at least one command data set;

a handwriting recognition unit able to output at least one second command from said at least one command data set; and

APPLICANTS: ILAN, Gabriel et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/674,710
FILED: January 29, 2000
Page 10

a control unit able to receive said at least one first command and at least one second command and able to communicate a command signal associated therewith to at least one appliance within a vehicle.

26. (New) An apparatus according to claim 25 further comprising a microphone operatively connected to said voice recognition unit.

27. (New) An apparatus according to claim 25 further comprising a touchpad operatively connected to said handwriting recognition unit.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said control unit is able to compare said at least one first command and said at least one second command.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said control unit is able to combine said at least one first command and said at least one second command.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said at least one command data set is associated by a user with at least one 3 dimensional hand gesture.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said at least one appliance is a sunroof.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said at least one appliance is a window.

33. (New) A method comprising:

controlling at least one appliance within a vehicle with at least one signal generated from recognition of voice and handwritten input.